

Appl. No. 10/760,561
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Reply to Office Action dated June 24, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A gutter screen assembly for minimizing water runoff and debris collection adjacent a gutter, the gutter comprising a roof-engaging portion and a substantially horizontal gutter rim portion, the gutter rim portion comprising an inner rim edge and an outer rim edge, the roof-engaging portion being affixed adjacent a roof border region, the gutter screen assembly comprising, in combination:

a gutter screen, the gutter screen comprising a roof-engaging edge, a gutter-engaging edge, two latitudinally-opposed screen edges, a plurality of longitudinally-aligned ribs extending from the roof-engaging edge to the gutter-engaging edge, and a plurality of latitudinally-aligned ribs extending intermediate the latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the longitudinally-aligned ribs intersecting with the latitudinally-aligned ribs thus forming a series of intersection points, the longitudinally-aligned ribs, the latitudinally-aligned ribs and the intersection points defining a substantially planar water-accepting grid;
and

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a gutter screen termination trim, the gutter screen termination trim comprising a substantially vertical first breaker edge, a substantially vertical second breaker edge, a select positioning breaker edge, a select tension-breaking breaker edge, and a substantially horizontal screen-receiving region intermediate the first and second breaker edges, the select breaker edges each being selected from the group consisting of the first and second breaker edges, the first and second breaker edges being substantially coplanar, the screen-receiving region comprising an edge-receiving fold, the edge-receiving fold comprising a substantially U-shaped edge and two substantially parallel edge-engaging regions, the edge-receiving fold receiving the gutter-engaging edge, the edge-receiving fold thus sandwiching the gutter-engaging edge intermediate the edge-engaging regions, the roof-engaging edge being affixed adjacent the roof border region, the edge-receiving fold and gutter-engaging edge being affixed in superior adjacency to the gutter rim portion, the select positioning breaker edge extending downwardly snugly adjacent the inner rim edge, the U-shaped edge being spatially located in superior adjacency to the outer rim edge, the select tension-breaking breaker edge extending upwardly opposite the select positioning breaker edge, the select tension-breaking breaker edge for breaking the water surface tension of a water film formed upon the gutter screen thus allowing water to permeate through the water-accepting grid into the gutter.

2. (original) The gutter screen assembly of claim 1 wherein the longitudinally-aligned ribs have a substantially uniform latitudinal distance therebetween and the

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latitudinally-aligned ribs have a substantially uniform longitudinal distance therebetween, the latitudinal distance ranging from a dimension greater than 0 millimeters to about 5 millimeters, the longitudinal distance ranging from a dimension greater than 0 millimeters to about 1.75 millimeters.

3. (original) The gutter screen assembly of claim 1 wherein the first breaker edge and the second breaker edge each have a measurable vertical dimension, the measurable vertical dimensions each being selected from an edge dimension range, the edge dimension range ranging from about 2 millimeters to about 6 millimeters.
4. (original) The gutter screen assembly of claim 3 wherein the measurable vertical dimensions are selected from a select dimension grouping, the select dimension grouping consisting of the dimensions of about 3 millimeters and about 6 millimeters.
5. (original) The gutter screen assembly of claim 4 wherein the measurable vertical dimension of the first breaker edge measures about 3 millimeters and the measurable vertical dimension of the second breaker edge measures about 6 millimeters.
6. (currently amended) A gutter screen termination trim for use in combination with a gutter screen, the gutter screen termination trim for minimizing water runoff and

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debris collection adjacent a gutter, the gutter comprising a roof-engaging portion and a gutter rim portion, the roof-engaging portion for fixed attachment adjacent a roof border region, the gutter screen comprising a plurality of border edges and a substantially planar water-accepting region intermediate the border edges, the border edges comprising a roof-engaging edge, a horizontally planar gutter-engaging edge, and two latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the gutter screen termination trim comprising:

a substantially vertical first breaker edge, a substantially vertical second breaker edge, a select positioning breaker edge, a select tension-breaking breaker edge, and a screen-receiving region intermediate the first and second breaker edges, the select breaker edges being selected from the group consisting of the first and second breaker edges, the first and second breaker edges being substantially coplanar, the screen-receiving region comprising an edge-receiving fold, the edge-receiving fold comprising a substantially U-shaped edge and two substantially parallel edge-engaging regions, the edge-receiving fold for receiving the gutter-engaging edge, the edge-receiving fold for sandwiching the gutter-engaging edge intermediate the edge-engaging regions, the roof-engaging edge for fixed attachment adjacent the roof border region, the edge-receiving fold and gutter-engaging edge for fixed placement in superior adjacency to the gutter rim portion, the select tension-breaking breaker edge ~~for upwardly directed extension~~ extending upwardly opposite the select positioning breaker edge, the select tension-breaking breaker edge for breaking the water surface tension of a

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water film formed upon the gutter screen thus allowing water to permeate through the water-accepting region into the gutter.

7. (original) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 6 wherein the gutter screen termination trim is for use in combination with the gutter rim portion, the gutter rim portion comprising an inner rim edge and an outer rim edge, the select positioning breaker edge for positioned placement in snug adjacency to the inner rim edge, the U-shaped edge for fixed placement in superior adjacency to the outer rim edge.
8. (original) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 6 wherein the first breaker edge and the second breaker edge each have a measurable vertical dimension, the measurable vertical dimensions each being selected from an edge dimension range, the edge dimension range ranging from about 2 millimeters to about 6 millimeters.
9. (original) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 8 wherein the measurable vertical dimensions are each selected from a select dimension grouping, the select dimension grouping consisting of the dimensions of about 3 millimeters and about 6 millimeters.
10. (original) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 9 wherein the measurable vertical dimension of the first breaker edge measures 3 millimeters and the

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measurable vertical dimension of the second breaker edge measures about 6 millimeters.

11. (withdrawn) A gutter screen assembly for minimizing water runoff and debris collection adjacent a gutter, the gutter comprising a roof-engaging portion and a gutter rim portion, the roof-engaging portion being affixed adjacent a roof border region, the gutter screen assembly comprising, in combination:

a gutter screen, the gutter screen comprising a roof-engaging edge, a gutter-engaging edge, two latitudinally-opposed screen edges, a plurality of longitudinally-aligned ribs extending from the roof-engaging edge to the gutter-engaging edge, and a plurality of latitudinally-aligned ribs extending intermediate the latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the longitudinally-aligned ribs intersecting with the latitudinally-aligned ribs thus forming a series of intersection points, the longitudinally-aligned ribs, the latitudinally-aligned ribs and the intersection points defining a substantially planar water-accepting grid; and

at least one latitudinally-aligned water tension breaker, the water tension breaker comprising a raised tension-breaking member intermediate the latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the tension breaking member being cooperatively associated with the water-accepting grid for breaking the water surface tension of a water film formed upon the gutter screen thus allowing water to permeate through the water-accepting grid into the gutter.

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12. (withdrawn) The gutter screen assembly of claim 11 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member lies in a breaker plane, the breaker plane being substantially vertical.
13. (withdrawn) The gutter screen assembly of claim 11 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member lies in a breaker plane, the breaker plane being substantially orthogonal to the water-accepting grid.
14. (withdrawn) The gutter screen assembly of claim 11 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member has a measurable vertical dimension, the measurable vertical dimension being selected from a breaker dimension range, the breaker dimension range ranging from about 2 millimeters to about 6 millimeters.
15. (withdrawn) The gutter screen assembly of claim 14 wherein the measurable vertical dimension measures about 3 millimeters.
16. (withdrawn) The gutter screen assembly of claim 11 wherein the gutter screen assembly comprises a plurality of water tension breakers, the water tension breakers being staggered upon the water-accepting grid.
17. (withdrawn) The gutter screen assembly of claim 11 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member is integrally formed with at least one latitudinally – aligned rib.

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18. (withdrawn) A water tension breaker for cooperative association with a gutter screen, the water tension breaker for minimizing water runoff and debris collection adjacent a gutter, the gutter comprising a roof-engaging portion and a gutter rim portion, the roof-engaging portion for fixed attachment adjacent a roof border region, the gutter screen comprising a plurality of border edges and a substantially planar water-accepting region intermediate the border edges, the border edges comprising a roof-engaging edge, a gutter-engaging edge, and two latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the water tension breaker comprising:

at least one raised tension-breaking member intermediate the latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the tension-breaking member being cooperatively associated with the water-accepting region for breaking the water surface tension of a water film formed upon the gutter screen thus allowing water to permeate through the water-accepting region into the gutter.

19. (withdrawn) The water tension breaker of claim 18 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member lies in a breaker plane, the breaker plane being substantially vertical.

20. (withdrawn) The water tension breaker of claim 18 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member lies in a breaker plane, the breaker plane being substantially orthogonal to the water-accepting region.

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21. (withdrawn) The water tension breaker of claim 18 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member has a measurable vertical dimension, the measurable vertical dimension being selected from a breaker dimension range, the breaker dimension range ranging from about 2 millimeters to about 6 millimeters.
22. (withdrawn) The water tension breaker of claim 21 wherein the measurable vertical dimension measures about 3 millimeters.
23. (withdrawn) The water tension breaker of claim 18 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member is defined by a plurality of raised tension-breaking members, the raised tension-breaking members being staggered upon the water-accepting region.
24. (withdrawn) The water tension breaker of claim 18 wherein at least one raised tension-breaking member is integrally formed with at least one latitudinally-aligned rib.
25. (new) A gutter system for minimizing water runoff and debris collection adjacent an outfitted roof border region, the gutter system comprising, in combination:
- a gutter, the gutter comprising a roof-engaging portion and a substantially horizontal gutter rim portion, the gutter rim portion comprising an inner rim edge

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and an outer rim edge, the roof-engaging portion being affixed adjacent the outfitted roof border region;

a gutter screen, the gutter screen comprising a roof-engaging edge, a gutter-engaging edge, two latitudinally-opposed screen edges, a plurality of longitudinally-aligned ribs extending from the roof-engaging edge to the gutter-engaging edge, and a plurality of latitudinally-aligned ribs extending intermediate the latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the longitudinally-aligned ribs intersecting with the latitudinally-aligned ribs thus forming a series of intersection points, the longitudinally-aligned ribs, the latitudinally-aligned ribs and the intersection points defining a substantially planar water-accepting grid; and

a gutter screen termination trim, the gutter screen termination trim comprising a vertically planar first breaker edge, a vertically planar second breaker edge, a select positioning breaker edge, a select tension-breaking breaker edge, and a horizontally planar screen-receiving region intermediate the first and second breaker edges, the select breaker edges each being selected from the group consisting of the first and second breaker edges, the first and second breaker edges being coplanar, the screen-receiving region comprising an edge-receiving fold, the edge-receiving fold comprising a substantially U-shaped edge and two substantially parallel edge-engaging regions, the edge-receiving fold receiving the gutter-engaging edge, the edge-receiving fold thus sandwiching the gutter-engaging edge intermediate the edge-engaging regions, the roof-engaging edge being affixed adjacent the roof border region, the edge-receiving fold and gutter-

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engaging edge being affixed in superior adjacency to the gutter rim portion, the select positioning breaker edge extending downwardly snugly adjacent the inner rim edge, the U-shaped edge being spatially located in superior adjacency to the outer rim edge, the select tension-breaking breaker edge extending upwardly opposite the select positioning breaker edge, the select tension-breaking breaker edge for breaking the water surface tension of a water film formed upon the gutter screen thus allowing water to permeate through the water-accepting grid into the gutter.

26. (new) The gutter system of claim 25 wherein the longitudinally-aligned ribs have a substantially uniform latitudinal distance therebetween and the latitudinally-aligned ribs have a substantially uniform longitudinal distance therebetween, the latitudinal distance ranging from a dimension greater than 0 millimeters to about 5 millimeters, the longitudinal distance ranging from a dimension greater than 0 millimeters to about 1.75 millimeters, the longitudinal and latitudinal distances for enhancing film formability and debris filtering adjacent the gutter screen.

27. (new) The gutter system of claim 25 wherein the first breaker edge and the second breaker edge each have a measurable vertical dimension, the measurable vertical dimensions each being selected from an edge dimension range, the edge dimension range ranging from about 2 millimeters to about 6 millimeters.

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28. (new) The gutter system of claim 27 wherein the measurable vertical dimensions are selected from a select dimension grouping, the select dimension grouping consisting of the dimensions of about 3 millimeters and about 6 millimeters.

29. (new) The gutter system of claim 28 wherein the measurable vertical dimension of the first breaker edge measures about 3 millimeters and the measurable vertical dimension of the second breaker edge measures about 6 millimeters.

30. (new) A gutter screen termination trim for use in combination with a gutter assembly, the gutter screen termination trim for minimizing water runoff and debris collection adjacent an outfitted roof border region, the gutter assembly comprising a gutter and a gutter screen, the gutter comprising a roof-engaging portion and a gutter rim portion, the roof-engaging portion for fixed attachment adjacent the outfitted roof border region, the gutter screen comprising a plurality of border edges and a substantially planar water-accepting region intermediate the border edges, the border edges comprising a roof-engaging edge, a horizontally planar gutter-engaging edge, and two latitudinally-opposed screen edges, the gutter screen termination trim comprising a substantially vertically planar first breaker edge, a substantially vertically planar second breaker edge, a select positioning breaker edge, a select tension-breaking breaker edge, and a screen-receiving region intermediate the first and second breaker edges, the select breaker edges being selected from the group consisting of the first and second breaker edges, the first and second breaker edges being coplanar, the screen-

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receiving region comprising an edge-receiving fold, the edge-receiving fold comprising a substantially U-shaped edge and two substantially parallel edge-engaging regions, the edge-receiving fold for receiving the gutter-engaging edge, the edge-receiving fold for sandwiching the gutter-engaging edge intermediate the edge-engaging regions, the roof-engaging edge for fixed attachment adjacent the roof border region, the edge-receiving fold and gutter-engaging edge for fixed placement in superior adjacency to the gutter rim portion, the select tension-breaking breaker edge extending upwardly opposite the select positioning breaker edge, the select tension-breaking breaker edge for breaking the water surface tension of a water film formed upon the gutter screen thus allowing water to permeate through the water-accepting region into the gutter.

31. (new) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 30 wherein the gutter screen termination trim is for use in combination with the gutter rim portion, the gutter rim portion comprising an inner rim edge and an outer rim edge, the outer rim edge comprising an edge plane, the select positioning breaker edge for positioned placement in snug adjacency to the inner rim edge, the U-shaped edge for fixed placement in superior adjacency to the outer rim edge, the edge plane being tangent to the U-shaped edge.

32. (new) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 30 wherein the first breaker edge and the second breaker edge each have a measurable vertical dimension, the measurable vertical dimensions each being selected from an edge dimension

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range, the edge dimension range ranging from about 2 millimeters to about 6 millimeters.

33. (new) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 32 wherein the measurable vertical dimensions are each selected from a select dimension grouping, the select dimension grouping consisting of the dimensions of about 3 millimeters and about 6 millimeters.

34. (new) The gutter screen termination trim of claim 33 wherein the measurable vertical dimension of the first breaker edge measures 3 millimeters and the measurable vertical dimension of the second breaker edge measures about 6 millimeters.